IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for clearing pipes used for conveying flowable liquid material of the flowable liquid material conveyed in said pipes, said pipes having an inlet end and at least one outlet end, said method comprising

as a first step, at said inlet end, forcing a gas into the pipe with the pipe being filled with the flowable liquid material, with at least one outlet end open, at a first pressure ~~sufficient~~ to discharge from said ~~open~~ at least one outlet end pipe the liquid material ~~contents~~ forced through by said gas at a first velocity;

as a second step, when substantially all of the liquid material in said pipe ~~contents have~~ has been discharged from said ~~open~~ at least one outlet end, ~~again~~ at said inlet end, ~~against said inlet end,~~ forcing a gas into the pipe at a second velocity higher than said first velocity, and with said ~~open~~ at least one outlet end still open, so that ~~the~~ a gas pressure in said pipe is lower than said first pressure, to clear ~~contents~~ the liquid material remaining in said pipe after said first step.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said forcing serves also for the second velocity step.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein a cleaning fluid is introduced into the pipe after the gas forcing steps.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the cleaning fluid fills the pipe at least between the inlet end and the open outlet end.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the cleaning fluid is discharged from the pipe and, with the outlet end partially closed down, a gas is forced into the pipe to increase the pressure therein so that an accompanying adiabatic temperature increase dries the pipe of cleaning fluid.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the gas forced into the pipe is air.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the second velocity step involves a gas velocity through the pipe of the order of 20 m/s.

9. (Withdrawn) Apparatus for clearing pipes, comprising

gas forcing means connecting to an inlet end of the pipe;

valve means adapted to throttle down an outlet of the pipe;

said gas forcing means and valve means being adapted to the pipe to cooperate to effect both higher pressure, low flow velocity and lower pressure, higher flow velocity of gas through the pipe.

10. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 9, in which the forcing means comprise a pump.

11. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 9, in which the forcing means comprise blower means.

12. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 11, in which the blower means are capable of generating a gas flow velocity through the pipe of the order of 20 m/s.

13. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 7, in which the forcing means and valve means are adapted to the pipe to cooperate to elevate the pressure inside the

pipe so as to increase the temperature of the gas in the pipe to evaporate a cleaning liquid while maintaining a flow out of the pipe through said valve means.

14. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 9, comprising a control arrangement controlling the gas forcing means.

15. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 14, in which the control arrangement controls the gas forcing means in accordance with conditions in the pipe.

16. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 15, in which the control arrangement comprises a pressure relief valve.

17. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 14, comprising a pipe internal pressure means device

18. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 14, comprising a pipe internal temperature measuring device.

19. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 14, in which the control means control the output of the gas forcing means.

20. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 19, in which the gas forcing means comprise a rotary blower and the control means control the rate of rotation thereof.

21. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 20, in which the blower is electrically powered and speed control is *via* a frequency converter.

22. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 14, in which the control arrangement comprises a programmed computer.

23. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 22, in which the computer is programmed to cause the gas forcing means and all ancillary equipment to operate in accordance with sensed variables and/or to a time regime.